



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** October 14, 2015

Dear National Forest User:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the 2014 Kensington Fuel Depot project are available online at [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=45154](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45154). The EA, and associated maps and appendices, are located under the "Project Documents – Analysis" heading. The Draft Decision Notice and its maps and appendix are located under the "Project Documents – Decision" heading. To request a copy of this EA or Draft Decision Notice in hard copy or CD format, please contact: Curtis Caton at (907) 789-6273 or at the address listed near the end of this letter.

The EA is the same as the document released in June 2015. The Decision Notice explains my selection of a modified version of Alternative 2 as my draft decision. In my draft decision, the approved Plan of Operations for the Kensington Gold project will be modified to allow seven fuel tanks with a total capacity of three hundred and fifty thousand gallons to be installed above ground, at the upper laydown yard of the Kensington Mine Marine Terminal. A buried header pipe will be located along the northwest side of the Kensington Marine Terminal access road and will connect via an approximately 500 feet seamless pipeline to the tanks. Fuel delivery will be by barge that will dock at the Kensington Marine Terminal and connect to the fuel header via an approximately 100-150 feet flexible hose. The fuel tank truck loading station will be a 20-foot shipping container connected to the supply piping. The fuel tank truck will then deliver fuel to the Mill bench. The Decision Notice contains my rationale for this draft decision, provides a finding of no significant impact, and describes the outreach we did to seek input. The Decision Notice also summarizes the comments and concerns we heard from the public and provides a summarized response to those comments.

This project is subject to the Predecisional Administrative Review Process (Objection Process) pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B.

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunities for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to:

M. Earl Stewart, Reviewing Officer  
USFS, Tongass National Forest



Federal Building  
 Ketchikan, AK 99901-6591  
 (Physical address – 648 Mission St.)  
 Fax: (907) 228-6215  
 Email: objections-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us

Electronically filed objections may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), and hypertext markup language (.html).

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in the Juneau Empire on October 14, 2015. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

- 1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
- 2) A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection);
- 3) When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);
- 4) The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented;
- 5) A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and
- 6) A statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 36 CFR 218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

If you have questions or want additional information, please contact: Curtis Caton, Project Team Leader, Tongass National Forest, 8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd, Juneau, AK 998010-8041, 907-789-6273, curtiscaton@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Orr", with a stylized, flowing script.

BRAD ORR  
District Ranger

cc: Earl Stewart, Curtis Caton, Karen Iwamoto